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ORAGE, A. R. *National Guilds: An Enquiry into the Wage-System and the Way Out.* Pp. viii, 370. Price, \$1.60. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

The author divides his study into an analysis of the wage system and a suggested remedy. His conclusion regarding the wage system—a conclusion based largely upon theoretical grounds—is that, "It cannot now be doubted that the commodity theory of labour is at the root of present discontent." He attacks the wage system on the grounds that it involves two false assumptions: (1) "That labour is a commodity pure and simple; (2) that the seller of labour, having sold, has no kind of economic or social claim to the products of labour." He avers that, "The unrest that now stirs the pool of the capitalist Siloam is an unconscious protest against the wage system that condemns the great majority of mankind to economic servitude and spiritual prostration." The argument against the wage system is well made and strong. The plea for a gold system is not so conclusive. The author finds the inspiration for his plea, not in the activity of the Socialists, but of the Snydicalists. While minimizing the value of political action, he writes, "Some experience of Collectivism in action and of political methods as distinct from economic methods was necessary before the mind of the Labour movement could be turned in another direction." At last, however, the revulsion "was brought about by the impulse known as Syndicalism which, in essence, is the demand of Labour to control its industry." These points the author makes and makes well, but the reader who looks for a successful demonstration of the contention that the desired end can best be accomplished without political action, will be disappointed in his search.

SCOTT NEARING.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

OSBORNE, THOMAS MOTT. *Within Prison Walls.* Pp. vii, 327. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1914.

On September 29, 1913, the author of this volume, who is chairman of the New York State Prison Reform Commission, entered Auburn Prison for a period of one week of voluntary confinement. He was entered as Thomas Brown, No. 33333X and was assigned to cell 15 second tier, north, north wing. The arrangement was made with Warden Rattigan and other prison officials that no special concessions were to be made in favor of the prisoner, but the experiment was not to be kept secret. The plan was carried out completely. Of the nature of this book, which is in the form of a diary-narrative, the author says: "I shall not attempt to draw up any bill of indictment against the prison system, or to suggest specific improvements, either in general principles or administrative details; I shall simply set down the facts and my feelings, as accurately as I can."

The author does not assume that his feelings and mental experiences were those of the real convict, but his physical experiences were practically identical. The treadmill work, the dehumanizing discipline, the deadening monotony and the physical discomforts are described with the vividness, not of a mere observer, but of one who experienced them, and Mr. Osborne had at least an

opportunity to observe what effect these things were having on the minds of the real prisoners. Of course it was impossible not to inject into his observations his own ideas and feelings about punishment, but for this due allowance must be made.

The result of the experience was to increase the optimism of the author in the reformation of the criminal under conditions conducive to that end—conditions largely lacking in the Auburn system.

It may be observed that Auburn as described is hardly typical of the better class of modern prisons, but there are some that are worse. Changes in prison treatment are rapidly being made for the better and there are few books in the range of prison reform literature better calculated to further this reform. The book is fascinating reading,—the type that one desires to read through before laying it down.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

REEVES, MRS. PEMBER. *Round about a Pound a Week*. Pp. 231. Price, \$1. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

The author of *Round about a Pound a Week* has made an interesting contribution to the rapidly growing number of intensive standard-of-living studies. The five-year investigation on which this book is based was confined to a small district of London, England, and was apparently carefully prosecuted, although the description in the book does not enable the reader to tell exactly what range of accuracy was maintained.

The book includes chapters on the district, the people, housing, furniture, budgets, food, buying, and family menus. This portion of the work deals directly with the standard-of-living problem. The remainder of the chapters, the poor and marriage, mother's days, the children, and the people who are out of work, deal generally with the economic and social problems so frequently met with in any industrial district.

The American reader is particularly impressed by the congested living and the scanty diet of the families described. Although the immigrants who do the low-paid work in the industrial centers of America live, in many cases, under even worse conditions than those surrounding the lives of the people here described, the general tone of American living standards is distinctly higher than that described in this study. International comparisons are always unsatisfactory, yet the minuteness with which many of the details of of London living are set forth allows the student of American standards to generalize to this extent, that the living conditions of those "round about a pound a week" would be generally regarded in the United States as intolerable.

SCOTT NEARING.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

SEAGER, H. R. *Principles of Economics: Being a Revision of Introduction to Economics*. Pp. xx, 650. Price, \$2.25. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1913.

The present volume is the 4th edition of the author's *Introduction to Economics*, which was first published in 1904. During these ten years signifi-